



25th Legislative District Democratic Focus



Our August 1st meeting will take place at 7 pm in the South meeting room at the Puyallup Library. Our program will be a discussion. We will break into small groups to share our experiences that have shaped our beliefs and drawn us to be active in the Democratic Party. Even if we do not agree with a fellow Democrat on what are the most important issues and the best candidates for our party, we should be able to understand that each of us has a unique situation and background that leads us in a particular direction. **At 4 pm prior to the meeting we will be phone banking to get more Democratic ballots returned before the Tuesday August 2nd deadline. Bring your cell phone and charger. Dinner will be provided.**

This article from **Truth-out-org** is a must read for all Democrats!

Like It or Not, the Democratic Party Now Must Answer to Millennials

Thursday, 05 May 2016 *By Aisling O'Donnell, Truthout | Op-Ed*

<http://www.truth-out.org/>

One of the most recurrent allegations leveled at Bernie Sanders supporters is that they are young. On the surface it is difficult to imagine that accusing a supporter base of populating an age bracket could be advanced as a serious critique, but such is the frequency with which the observation is made that one has to assume that there is some popular appeal to the coupling of youth with political illegitimacy.

In reality, the disenfranchising of young people is an easy way to dismiss their grievances, a sort of a crowd directed ad hominem attack. This narrative has not only appeared in mainstream media, but both Hillary and Bill Clinton have sought at points to publicly make ridiculous the political participation of young people.

On April 3, when given an opportunity to counter the proposition that accepting campaign contributions from the fossil fuel industry (nearly \$6.9 million, according to Greenpeace) constrains her capacity to sincerely tackle the climate crisis, Hillary Clinton remarked that she "felt sorry for young people" and that they should "do their research." On April 16, Bill Clinton jovially accused young students of wanting to "shoot every third person on Wall Street." The implications of these comments are that young people are naive and fanatical; these comments exhibit a kind of ageist let-them-eat-cake-ery that reveals a basic misapprehension of who this demographic actually is.

The fact is many Sanders advocates *are* young, and this is integral to their capacity to progress a dynamic agenda. Often depicted as self-absorbed and apathetic, young people have in reality been the principal collateral damage of neoliberalism. Not only are they poor, but as a result of impossible student debt burdens, no expectation of job security, falling real wages and the constant threat of impending global economic collapse, they are future poor. They are the most incarcerated generation in history (over 50 percent of people incarcerated in state prisons are between the ages of 20 and 30), living in a country where rising national debt levels are everywhere cited as the cause of crumbling infrastructure, and where nearly half of all young people admit to avoiding seeking medical treatment because the cost is prohibitive. **For most millennials, their entire adulthood has been defined by permanent war, imbedded inequality, omnipresent poverty, routine corruption and a planet that is dying as they stand upon it.** As the 2016 State of the Millennial report noted in its assessment of the

challenges facing young people, "48 percent of Millennials now believe that the American Dream is dead."

Compounding these deep-set infrastructural problems, voter suppression in Arizona and New York, and the lackluster response to it, has only intensified suspicions that the democratic process is neither free nor fair, and that interference in the most rudimentary exercise in political participation is commonplace. This has exacerbated a sense that somehow young people do not exist in a full enough capacity as citizens to expect meaningful participation or recognition in the electoral process. In a climate of such heightened tensions, it is indeed risky to imply that young people are petulant or reckless when they refuse to fall in line behind Hillary Clinton.

Bernie or busters are not inherently malevolent. On the contrary, they are acutely aware of having been muzzled and are carefully weighing up the likelihood that they can survive eight more years of the establishment regime. [Menacing them with threats about how much worse it can get only crystallizes the impression they already have of a detached liberal class that remains oblivious to just how bad it is right now.](#)

Illustrating this very point, on April 20, Prof. Robert Reich outlined the "new common ground between populist left and right" in which he points out that both constituencies are against crony capitalism, bank bailouts, *Citizens United* and corporate welfare. If there is any truth to Bill Clinton's awkward dig that young Sanders advocates want to "shoot every third person on Wall Street," it is probably worth noting that they are not the only ones.

The concerns of Sanders millennials are reflective mostly of a desire to preserve some of the world they will inherit. Refusing to take seriously their grievances reveals a willingness to ignore the terrifying enormity, perhaps even impossibility, of that task. If an account is not given for voter suppression and penance not made to restore the confidence of a disenfranchised demographic in democracy, there is no telling what the fallout will be. [But if history is to be any instruction, willful disregard of the suffering of poverty without recourse to political participation usually ends in violence.](#)

Far from being myopic and disconnected, millennials are media savvy and politically shrewd, and they are not going to be placated by the type of windy rhetoric that sated the Obama electorate. If Hillary Clinton wants to bring them to the ballot box behind her, she is going to have to do more than talk in sweeping terms about uniting a party against a common enemy: She is going to have to convincingly change her politics, and in an atmosphere of high mistrust, that may prove complicated.

Chairs Comment

Ed Herde

We are nearing the 2016 primary election ballot deadline on Tuesday August 2nd. **Make sure to get your ballot turned in to a ballot drop box or post marked in the mail by Tuesday August 2nd.** Several 25th LD members and friends have been helping with the 25th Legislative District House and Senate races, and County Council and County Executive races, as well as with the 25th LD Democratic Organization's Get-Out-The-Vote efforts. We have a limited number of days to take part in voter turnout activities. To win these races we need to reach many more disillusioned Democratic voters and remind them how much their votes are needed in these local races. In 2010, 25th LD representative Dawn Morrell lost her seat in the State House by only 29 votes. Although many have helped these last few months we need more participation from a broader base of 25th LDDO members. Any one volunteer can make a difference if there is a very close election. Although this is just the primary there is a lot on the line as far as campaign funding and other help that comes to a candidate if their showing is good in the primary.

In the Republican party votes are harvested through the dumping of large amounts of special interest dollars into legislative races. To see for yourself who is purchasing Republican legislators go to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission website at pdc.wa.gov. Republicans typically will blanket the district indiscriminately with campaign mailings since they have boat loads of money. They will also buy lots of TV commercials and Facebook ads. As Democrats with less corporate money available to us we need to maximize our grassroots volunteer activity to get Democratic ballots returned by Election Day. Please give your time to help with this effort to get our local Democrats into office. You can contact the campaigns of our legislative and county candidates, or contact the 25th LD Democrats to help. If every Democrat who receives this Focus Newsletter gave 2 hours per week (about 1% of your week) it would be equivalent to having 60 full time staff people to get out the vote, and we would have no problem getting our local Democrats elected.

When you are called on to help with voter turnout leading up to the November election please find the time to give at least 2 hours per week so we can insure we will get our Democratic candidates into the legislature, the County Council, and the County Executive's offices.

8-16

**Minutes of the 25th Legislative District Democratic Organization
Member Meeting, July 5th, 2016
Held at Puyallup Public Library**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ed Herde at 7:00pm who led the flag salute.

Roll was called: Officers present: Ed Herde, Chairman; Bill Havens, Treasurer; Kareen Shanks, Secretary; Cliff Allo, Parliamentarian & Webster; Bryan Yambe, Sgt. At Arms; Blaine Pearman, Membership Chair; Eric Herde, PCO Chair; Joan Cronk, Focus Editor; Jeremy Kamel, State Committeeman; Ellen Zulauf, State Committeewoman; Karl Mecklenburg, PC Rep, Pos. 1;; Merv Swanson, PC Representative, Position 3

Candidates for upcoming elections were introduced and gave a short statement:

Michelle Chatterton, House of Representatives, Position 2 25th LD
Karl Mecklenburg, State Senate 25th Dist

Candidates requesting endorsement were given 2 minutes to speak and 2 minutes for questions:

Jeff Sprung	State Auditor
Pat McCarthy	State Auditor
John Paul Comerford	State Treasurer
Alec Frisken	State Treasurer
Mary Verner	Commissioner of Public Lands
Chris Reykdal	Superintendent of Public Instruction
David Spring	Superintendent of Public Instruction
John (Zamboni) Scannell	State Supreme Court Position 5
Shelly K. Speir	Pierce County Superior Court Position 5
Dominique L. Jinhong	Pierce County Superior Court Position 5
Karena Kirkendoll	Pierce County Superior Court Position 17
David Ladenburg	Pierce County Superior Court Position 17
Tom Quinlan	Pierce County Superior Court Position 17

The following motions were made and endorsements given for:

Tina Podlodowski(S.O.S.) & Mike Kreidler(Ins. Com.) - Denise Babineaux moved, 2nd
Eric Herde

Chris Reykdal(SPI) - Jeremy Kamel moved, 2nd by Eric Herde

Mary Verner(Com. Of Public Lands) – Cliff Allo moved, 2nd Denise Babineaux

Barbara Madsen(WA Supreme Court, pos. 5) – John McGinnis moved, 2nd Jerry Beckendorf

Alida Skold(US Congress, CD 8) - Cliff Allo moved, 2nd by Jerry Beckendorf

Charles Wiggins and Mary Yu(WA Supreme Court, pos. 6 and 1) – Eric Herde moved, 2nd by Jerry

Katherine M. Stolz(PC Superior Court, pos.2) - Eric Herde moved, 2nd by Nancy McGinnis

Shelly K Speir(PC Superior Court, pos. 5) - John McGinnis moved, 2nd by Al Rose

Action Items:

Eric Herde moved and Jerry Beckendorf 2nd for the ratification vote for the PCO's nominated at the May meeting:

25-205	Ginger Rivera
25-227	Jake Tozier
25-280	Asaph Gaspi

A motion was made by Eric Herde and 2nd by John McGinnis to allocate up to \$1,000 for local endorsed candidate door hangers for GOTV for the August 2nd Primary. —passed

Other Business:

Blaine Pearman reported on the Washington State Fair Booth and Fair Committee volunteers.

Meeting was adjourned. 9:30pm

Our next meeting is Monday August 1st at 7:00pm at the Puyallup Library. Before the meeting at 4:00pm we will be phone banking to turn out the Democratic vote for the August 2nd Primary Election Ballot return deadline.

Contact Information to Volunteer with Local Candidates

Jamie Smith - WA State House, Seat 1 702-419-8537

www.votejamiesmith.com

www.facebook.com/votejamiesmith/

Michelle Chatterton - WA State House, Seat 2 425-221-1921

www.michellechatterton.org

<https://www.facebook.com/Friendsofmichellechatterton/>

Karl Mecklenburg – WA State Senate 253-720-7859

www.electmeck.com

www.facebook.com/electmeck

Carolyn Edmonds – Pierce County Council, Dist. 2 253-952-0301

www.carolynedmonds.com

www.facebook.com/CarolynEdmondsCouncil/

Rick Talbert – Pierce County Executive 360-359-1963

www.ricktalbert.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Citizens-for-Rick-Talbert-317591090784/>

Officers 25th Legislative District Democrats (LDD)

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Pos. 3: Merv Swanson
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Website for latest information or copies of Focus:
www.25dems.org

DEMOCRAT'S CONTACT INFORMATION

DNC:
www.democrats.org

WA. STATE DEM. PARTY:
www.wa-democrats.org

PIERCE COUNTY DEMS:
piercecountydems.org

25TH. LEG. DISTRICT DEMOCRATS:
25dems.org



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**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?
DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW FOR 2016
Use this form to recruit friends and neighbors to join you
In helping our Democratic party**

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL** _____

**Dues: Evergreen (Includes Senior, outside district, etc.) \$10 per member
Rainier \$25. Chair's Voice \$50. Senator's Club \$100. (Can be paid
In installments.)**

**Please send dues to: 25th LDD, P. O. Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98374 or pay by credit card on
<http://25dems.org/Anedot/Dues.php>**